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News Release ~ Communiqué

Commemoration of the work of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

NICOLET, January 13, 1995 -- Outremont M.P. Martin Cauchon, on behalf of the Honourable Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, today unveiled in Nicolet a plaque from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada commemorating the work of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

Founded in 1853, in Saint-Grégoire, by Léocadie Bourgeois and three companions, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin devoted their time to teaching. By the time the community moved into a new mother house in Nicolet in 1872, it had already established several schools in neighbouring parishes. The number of sisters increased rapidly and at the turn of the century, they were also teaching in Ontario and Western Canada, as well as in New England.

During the first half of the 20th century, in addition to new parish schools, the Congregation opened a family institute, teachers' training colleges and a music college. In 1959, members numbered 2800 nuns, working in 134 establishments in Canada, 25 more in the United States and 11 others in Japan, Brazil, Ecuador and Africa.

Today, the Congregation numbers 975 members, still working in the teaching and the health fields in Canada and abroad. For 140 years, they have demonstrated courage, devotion and tenacity. Transformed by an intense faith, these women have been, and continue to be, equal to the task set by their founders.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada advises the Minister of Canadian Heritage on the commemoration of events, persons and sites of national historic significance.

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